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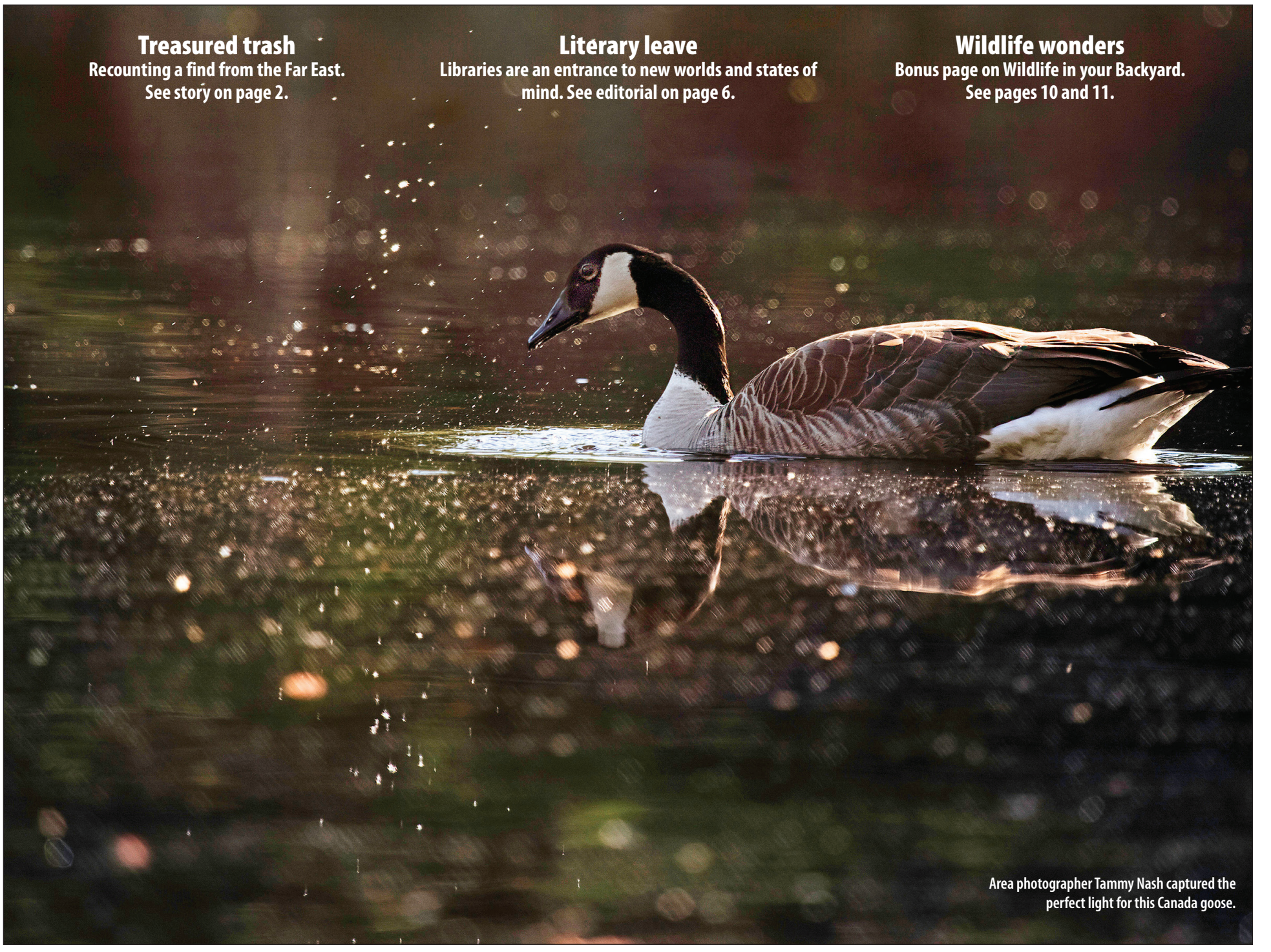
Treasured trash
Recounting a find from the Far East.
See story on page 2.

Literary leave
Libraries are an entrance to new worlds and states of mind. See editorial on page 6.

Wildlife wonders
Bonus page on Wildlife in your Backyard.
See pages 10 and 11.



Area photographer Tammy Nash captured the perfect light for this Canada goose.

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Found Art - Bark and Moss Painting, circa 1951

Art tells a story

LAURIE JONES

Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre Curator

We were about six months into the pandemic when a man walked into the Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre with two paintings he'd found at the landfill in Stanhope. He wanted to find out if they were worth anything. Not likely, I thought to myself, as I said brightly, "Let's take a look." Each artwork was about 21" tall by 10" wide and framed in what seemed like inlaid wood. They were very alike and of vaguely familiar landscapes, each depicting a body of water in the foreground against a backdrop of distant peaks. At first, I thought they were painted on silk, but, on closer examination, I observed that the soft blues in the water and sky were achieved with quite masterful graduated ink washes on a smooth wood panel painted white. The washes showed great restraint and control of the media (not easy to do!). Even more intriguing were the natural materials the artist used to create the mountains and riverbank foliage - tree bark and moss! With a limited palette of earth toned tree barks and layering, they had conjured mountain scenery complete with flowing water, a small foot bridge and foliage.

What a find! Where was this landscape? When was the work made, and why? How did it end up in Haliburton County?

Coincidentally, I was reading about the Japanese Edo period (1603 to 1867) and the artist Hokusai, most famous to the West for The Great Wave, the first in his series 36 Views of Mount Fuji. I soon made the connection! The paintings from the landfill in Stanhope were classic Japanese views of that iconic island volcano named Fuji, the meeting of heaven and earth, enduring symbol of Japanese culture and place of pilgrimage for travellers the world over. So popular, in fact, it is in danger of falling victim to over-tourism.

Now when were these gems made? During the Edo period Japan was isolated from most of the world and I had never heard of bark/moss paintings, so I consulted Google. Here is what I learned: Japanese Bark/Moss Paintings were souvenirs created by the hundreds for the rapidly expanding Japanese post-war tourism industry in the early-1950s. The San Fransisco Peace Treaty (1951) ended Japan's status as an imperial power and with it the Allied Occupation of the country. (It is unfathomable to imagine that the 1945 bombing of Pearl Harbour by Japan and subsequent American retaliation on Hiroshima and Nagasaki happened less than a decade before) One collector of this art form hypothesized these paintings were created in the 1940s and sold to the Americans as part of Second World War reparations, but I find that highly unlikely, and prefer to think that the post-war period opening to toursim, as it has been called, the "beginning of a beautiful friendship" between Japan and the West. Maybe someone from Haliburton County went on their own pilgrimage to Mount Fuji and came home with a couple of souvenir landscapes. Imagine how far they had come to end up in Haliburton County at the landfill in 2020. Imagine the times Mount Fuji has seen!

It's not every day a curiosity like this comes to the Rails End Gallery and the finder was kind enough to pose with his treasures. They won't likely make him a rich man, but he sure has a good story to tell!

Moss and Bark art is a contemporary art form today. Live mosses are often used but I have also seen dried and preserved moss (which retains its colour brilliantly) used in large installations. They say if you mix moss and yogourt together in a blender the "shake" can be painted on surfaces outdoors and grown. Now that sounds like something to try this summer!

County Life

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

Foodland *
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Todd's Independent *

All inserts are to selected distribution areas.

For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

Behold Barnum beauty

Early morning rays break through the canopy of the forest at the Barnum Creek Nature Reserve, located a few kilometres out of the village of Haliburton off of Gelert Road on Gould Crossing Road. The Reserve offers three trails and a variety of settings for hikers and bikers (limited to the Heritage Trail). Donations are welcomed. /DARREN LUM Staff

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Yellow means caution

Give the pet space to avoid potential bites, health unit says

Yellow is the colour of caution on traffic lights, and now a warning sign to give space to dogs and other animals that need it.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit is encouraging the use of a yellow ribbon (or bandana, bow or similar marker) tied on a dog's leash or collar to remind people to give the animal space. It's part of the Health Unit's Caution: I Might Bite awareness campaign to reduce the number of reported animal bites in its region, which continues to dog the area.

In each of the past three years, the Health Unit has investigated more than 600 animal bite/scratch incidents in Haliburton County, Northumberland County, and the City of Kawartha Lakes.

"The rise in animal bites incidents is worrying given the rabies-exposure risk, the trauma suffered by the victim, and the fact that most of these bites involve pets or domestic animals," said Richard Ovcharovich, Manager of Health Protection with the HKPR District Health Unit. "Our new campaign highlights yellow as the colour of caution, which identifies when dogs need their space and reduces potential bites or scratches if someone gets too close. Simply put: see yellow on a pet, give the animal space!"

The Health Unit's Caution: I Might Bite campaign builds on an international movement known as the 'Yellow Dog Project' that encourages people to use yellow to show dogs need space. By tying a yellow ribbon, or something similar to a dog's leash or collar, pet owners are stating the animal needs space for various reasons. This could include age, health issues (including recovering from surgery), nervousness, aggression or training.

Ovcharovich encourages families, especially children, to realize what the yellow ribbon or marker means and give the animal space. It's best not to approach or try petting the animal without the owner's full attention and direction, he adds.

The Health Unit has developed a Keep Bites at Bay school-based classroom resource and activity for students from kindergarten to Grade 6. It promotes animal bites prevention and promotes the use of yellow ribbons to indicate some animals need space. Teachers are encouraged to present the information in class or arrange to have Public Health Inspectors from the Health Unit do this. To book a presentation, call 1-866-888-4577, ext. 5006.

In terms of the Caution: I Might Bite campaign, various promotional items are being distributed in the area. In addition, the 'Yellow = Caution' message will be shared across social media and other web platforms. Social media users are encouraged to get involved, by sharing photos of an animal wearing a yellow ribbon or marker if it needs space. Simply tag the Health Unit (@HKPRDHU) or use the hashtags #YellowRibbonDog or #GiveMeSpace.

If someone is bitten by an animal, Ovcharovich encourages individuals to get the pet owner's contact information. If possible, take a picture of the animal or remember specific features (like markings, collar with tags). This assists the Health Unit in its follow-up investigation to ensure the correct animal is identified. The Health Unit must be notified any time an animal bites or scratches a person. To learn more, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 5006, or visit www.hkpr.on.ca.

Submitted by HKPR

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WAKE-UP CALL

I came alive when winter left
Like dormant bulb I'd sat
Pondering through windows
Thinking life was grey and flat

Friendships are less abstract now
We meet more on the trail
Chat takes deeper meaning
Truer colours can prevail

People need each other when
The world shifts into tilt
Normal takes a newer feel
Perspectives are rebuilt

It's been a test for everyone
These unexpected shocks
Catastrophic climate
And political deadlocks

Sudden war between two lands
Rogue virus stealing lives
When we reminisce one day
We won't believe archives

Nonetheless our spirits fought
While peering through divides
To covet pals and family
And life's own softer sides.

By Deborah J. Reed

Spring syncronicity

Instructor Ginny Carmichael, at left, leads a group of line dancers at the A.J. LaRue Arena auditorium on Wednesday, May 18 in Haliburton. Line dancing is offered weekly every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on the second floor in the A.J. LaRue Arena, located at 728 Mountain Street. Indoor shoes are required and it is $3 per person. /DARREN LUM Staff

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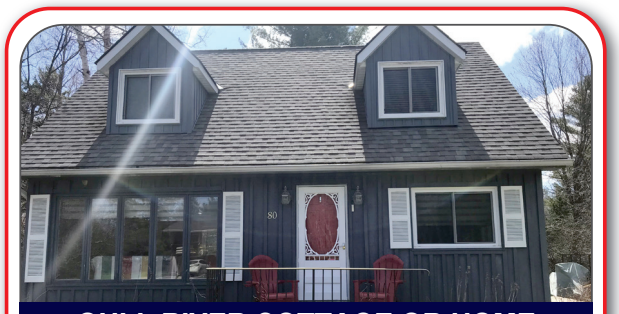

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The library card is a passport to childlike wonder

CALLING ALL 90's babies (and parents of 90's babies), does anyone else sing this Arthur song on repeat when there is ever any mention of a library card? Or is that just me?

The good news about this catchy ear-worm is that it's actually true.

Libraries offer a space of retreat, of education, of furthering knowledge and endless stories.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Special to County Life

Stories. They are something that we have needed more than ever over these past few years. Means of escape, tales of a different world, and, quite simply, the opportunity to delve into a place that's not guided by news headlines. While I will forever see the value in raw and honest journalism, there is simultaneously always the need for stories.

I always find it fascinating that children have the ability to create their own worlds; tiny communities filled with rules, regulations, standards, and characters. If you stopped to talk to the average four-year-old, they would deliver a cornucopia of creative chaos; imaginary figures, names for every toy, and occasionally even their own unique language.

The wonderful world of children quickly fades as they go through life. As the carefree days melt into obligations, and the sweet-hearted naivety is replaced with fast facts, the vibrant colour of childhood fades to black and white. There is the occasional adult who still hangs onto any remnants of childhood that can be grasped, but for the most part, the whimsy we once had becomes a mindful attempt rather than an organic existence.

That is, until you open a book. With every new word, books give you the opportunity to fall back into that state of peaceful and conscious dissociation. Whether you are reading historical novels, biographies, mysteries, fantasies, or poetry, there is a whole new world; a new fantastic point of view. (Sorry, 90's kids and parents alike, here's another ear-worm for you).

While books serve the cathartic experience of connecting to your inner child and taking a step away from real life, they also offer the opportunity to connect. Over recent pandemic-laden years, there has apparently been a significant increase in book clubs around the world. This was the result of geographical borders no longer being relevant in the age of Zoom calls, as well as the innate human desire to find common ground. Nothing serves as a stronger connection than the power of stories.

I have been a part of a book club for more than three years now. We're an eclectic group of individuals, who initially had very little in common other than our shared millennial status and our love of books. Yet, over the course of a few years and 35 different books, we have found a friendship; a pure, real, honest, and true friendship. We were connected by stories, and now, we tell our own stories together.

Even beyond the books, libraries are the heart of every community. In Haliburton County, we are lucky enough to have one library in each municipality, each one offering a little slice of life from the individual corners of the county. Libraries offer community connections, a variety of programming, safe public spaces, and an environment to cultivate creativity.

If you are stuck in a rut, seeking colour in your world, or looking for an escape that won't have you sulking about exorbitant gas prices, then head to your local library and simply open a book. After all, having fun isn't hard, when you've got a library card.

Top 10 reasons why not every weekend is a long weekend

SURE, EVERYONE loves a long weekend. And that probably makes you wonder why every weekend is not a long weekend. Well, there are plenty of good reasons that you never thought of because you were too busy relaxing and having a good time. Here are the top ten.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. International stocks of fireworks would deplete too quickly.
2. Most cottagers can put up with visitors for two days at best.
3. Sunscreen expenditures get out of hand.
4. It's hard enough to avoid chores for two days straight.
5. Three full days off? Wasn't the eight-hour workday enough?
6. Jet skiing round and round and round the lake finally gets boring on day three.
7. By day three the bugs have figured out your defenses.
8. You usually run out of beer by Sunday.
9. Restaurants with "All you can eat buffet" need a break too.
10. The chance of walking in to work on Tuesday with less enthusiasm increases by 50 per cent.

TWO FOR THE ROAD

I'm a nervous driver
Never did acquire the knack
Thinking skills work better
When my right brain's got my back

Those who operate a car
And get from A to B
Cause me envy and respect
Since travel is more free

Though I have a licence
And can actually use the road
I'm a better passenger
Assuming my own load

Of responsibility
While sharing a front seat:
Navigating highway maps
Or prepping driver's treat

Searching on my cellphone
For the nearest petrol pump
Dinner reservation
So nobody has to grump

Pointing out wild turkeys
Or the crazy greens of spring
Finding Motown radio
So both of us can sing

Private reminiscing
So we each discover more
Making jokes and silly games
Until both women roar

My job's as important
As the one who steers the wheel
One keeps car on pavement
While the other keeps it real.

By Deborah J. Reed

Youth hub visits climb higher

AMANDA DUNCOMBE-LEE
Point in Time Centre

Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario (YWHO) has released a data snapshot for the Haliburton County Youth Hub from April 2020 to December 2021.

The data snapshot reveals more than 1,000 youth "visits" occurred during that period, either through drop-ins for recreational or wellness programming, or for more structured community and social support services. All services were provided in both virtual and in-person format. Five hundred and ninety three of these visits were Skills and Well Being visits (drop-in visits) and 440 required community and social supports. The total number of youth visits to the Youth Hub were considerably higher than the previous year's snapshot – more than an eight-fold increase – showing higher demand for and increased access to recreational programming and clinical supports.

"We knew there was a great need for youth focused supports in our community and now we can really see it in the data that is coming in," said Mary Sisson, manager of the Youth Hub. "With a full team in place and the ability to run more recreational/wellness activities in person we are seeing how important these services and supports are to so many young people in our community. We are especially happy to see that the number of visits for recreational programming is higher than the number of visits for service, as this was an important piece for youth who have been involved in the development and creation of the youth hub. A place to just be yourself, spend time with friends and make new ones, and if the services are needed, they are easy to access when the time is right."

Most of the visits outside of the drop-ins were to seek mental health support, including for interpersonal relationships, trauma, and crisis management, followed by primary care (physical and sexual health, sleep, eating and nutrition) and community and social supports such as employment, nurse practitioner, housing, and food security.

Youth aged 15 to 17 years were the most common age group attending the Youth Hub, followed by 19 to 21-year-olds, and then 12 to 14-year-olds. Slightly more women/girls than men/boys and other gender categories used services over that time period.

The Youth Hub is in the process of making sure services are relevant and accessible to culturally and racially diverse community members and are in the initial stages of tracking this data on preliminary numbers of a small sample size. Three-quarters (75 per cent) of the youth identified as North American/European, while five percent identified as First Nations, Indigenous, or Métis; four per cent of the youth identified as mixed ethnicity, Black or East Asian. The remaining 16 per cent was unknown.

Outcome Rating Scores for the 12 to 17 and 18 to 25 age groups showed that on average, youth in these age groups were "clinically distressed," meaning their mental state could be negatively impacting their everyday functioning, and indicating a need for support services. Fifty-three per cent of youth attending clinical services rated their mental health as 'poor' or 'fair.'

Of the youth that responded to the YWHO satisfaction survey, the vast majority indicated high satisfaction with services offered; that they felt the services received were the right way of helping them and that they would recommend the services to others.

"We are thrilled to see so many youths accessing not only clinical services, but also our drop-in services," said Marg Cox, executive director at Point in Time. "Drop-ins provide a safe space and opportunity to engage in fun and healthy activities and there is real value in youth having positive social supports to help mental health and wellness."

The Haliburton Youth Hub is a one-stop shop for youth services and supports and is co-created with youth, for youth. It is part of a province-wide network of Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario and is affiliated with Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents. To find out more about the Haliburton Youth Hub, email haliburtonhub@pointintime.ca or call the office at (705) 457-2727. Follow updates and events on Instagram at @HaliCountyYouthhub.

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Spirits lifted

Ryan VanLieshout and Band play with Carl Dixon on stage at Lift Your Country Spirit, a dinner and fundraiser for Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129 in Haliburton on Saturday, May 14. The event was held at Legion Branch 129 and featured a dinner catered by McKeck's Tap and Grill, a live auction, dancing, and music by Ryan VanLieshout and Band with special guest musician Carl Dixon. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129 hosted Lift Your Country Spirit, a dinner, fundraiser, and concert.

Attendees dance to music performed by the band.

Ryan VanLieshout performs with bandmates Derek Cavan, far left, and Adrew Ferrier, far right, at the Lift Your Country Spirit.

VanLieshout sings with his band on stage.

Local Landmark Mystery

Local Landmark reveal: the Sinclair Russell memorial Pride Bench located on the River Walk in the village of Minden, close to Bobcaygeon Road. Minden Pride has become an essential event in the cultural fabric of the Haliburton Highlands with a full roster of events that demonstrate to both visitors and locals the creativity, inclusivity, and resiliency that makes the Haliburton Highlands such a great place to live and to visit. The bench commemerorates the contributions of Sinclair Russell, a founder of Minden Pride and a constant and colourful contributor to the community of Minden. The bench is located in a spot that Sinclair would often pause for a rest as he walked along the river to visit with friends. Photo and concept by Thom Lambert

The following are images of a local landmark. Try to guess what the landmark is and look for the reveal in next week's *County Life*. Concept and images from Thom Lambert, who shares informative posts about things to see and do in the Highlands through @myhaliburtonhighlands on Instagram. /Submitted by Thom Lambert

Wildlife in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions, depicting life in the Highlands. Email darren@ haliburtonpress.com. Please, ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

Exquisite framing by area photographer Tammy Nash resulted in this excellent composed image of a raccoon on her property.

Dubbed, "Say a little prayer," this image was taken by Algonquin Highlands' resident Tammy Nash.

Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Mystery of Ontario's Lost Ladybugs

When: Thursday, June 2, 7 p.m.
Via Zoom. Pre-registration required at www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca
Admission Free – Donations Welcome
Become a Citizen Scientist and help sleuth for once common, now endangered Transverse and Nine-spotted Ladybugs. Join Dr. Steven Paiero, Curator of the University of Guelph Insect Collection to learn about identification, preferred habitat, life cycle and threats.

Haliburton County Historical Society

Annual General Meeting
When: Thursday, May 26, 1:30 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Museum
Are you new to the County and looking to learn more about your community? Please join us and Learn about the Past, Present and Future of Haliburton County – Be part of the Living history. Please consider joining the executive or the Board of Directors. We are looking for new leadership, new people and new ideas. Bring a friend. Enjoy some light refreshments. For information call Larry Giles 705-754-0427

Legion Events

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge every Monday at 1 p.m. Schofield Room
Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m.
Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30 to 9 p.m. (Sept to June)
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall
Bingo doors open at 6 p.m.
Bingo starts at 7 p.m. $500 Jackpot - last Wednesday of the month
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, starting at 7 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Cribbage 1 p.m. start – Schofield Room
Meat draw has five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $2 per draw. Ed Pickard, MC.
Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards.
Saturdays: 50/50 Draw 4 p.m. draw – tickets are $1 each available in the Clubroom.

Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call the Legion today at 705-457-2571, email rcll129@outlook.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129 ... everyone is welcome!

Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m. and Sat. 3 to 6 p.m.

Schedule is subject to change without notice, so contact the Legion for updates.

Area photographer Tammy Nash captures a raccoon, above and left, in its habitat.

From the Algonquin Highlands' property of area photographer Tammy Nash, an inquisitive raccoon stands up for a better look.

Belinda Gallagher photographed a northern flicker "showing off for his lady. Spring is the time for love!"

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CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to gardens.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 18 = L)

A. **26 18 5 10 8 11**

Clue: Living organisms

B. **11 25 6 18**

Clue: Upper layer of Earth

C. **8 6 18 18 6 10 22**

Clue: Cultivating land

D. **5 20 12 10 9**

Clue: Modify

Answers: A. plants B. soil C. tilling D. amend

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell
something pertaining to gardening.

D R T I

Answer: Dirt

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in California on May 12, 1981. I had minor roles before landing a role in a popular TV series about a shy computer hacker. In 2019, I won an Academy Award for playing a world famous rock singer.

Answer: Rami Malek

GREAT GARDEN WORD SEARCH

O	D	D	T	A	U	S	Y	G	G	Z	D	T	P	R	U	Y	B	T	E
L	F	O	H	T	H	C	R	E	B	H	C	L	U	M	R	Y	S	C	F
Y	T	Z	L	I	O	S	Z	B	H	H	I	M	T	A	G	O	N	O	L
Y	A	L	C	F	Y	S	H	D	A	P	P	L	E	D	P	A	E	S	M
H	R	P	E	R	E	N	N	I	A	L	B	F	D	M	R	Y	F	D	A
D	R	R	T	P	S	Z	G	L	I	G	A	P	O	E	D	R	C	C	H
Z	E	Y	T	E	G	B	C	Z	M	P	I	C	L	E	B	R	L	O	Y
M	L	C	Y	P	E	N	Y	S	H	N	E	O	C	U	E	I	U	I	M
N	L	E	F	D	D	E	I	F	E	O	T	I	H	T	M	S	S	O	T
C	I	T	D	P	A	S	M	L	E	H	D	L	L	A	E	T	U	N	H
U	F	A	A	G	H	O	O	D	I	U	M	Z	T	P	O	N	N	B	G
R	R	G	H	O	S	H	T	O	O	A	F	E	L	O	D	G	E	S	U
T	D	I	Y	A	R	I	P	U	O	S	R	A	R	E	C	O	S	M	O
L	P	R	L	H	S	M	S	N	T	S	N	T	D	B	N	H	H	C	R
H	L	R	A	A	N	N	U	A	L	T	N	I	Z	G	U	Y	F	S	D
D	R	I	R	A	U	U	E	N	S	O	C	L	I	M	B	I	N	G	N
B	N	D	S	R	E	N	I	A	T	N	O	C	Z	U	S	Y	E	P	U
H	T	L	R	U	R	T	F	E	R	T	I	L	I	Z	E	R	B	C	T
B	O	C	L	A	N	S	D	E	L	C	I	A	R	F	T	E	E	M	M
S	S	E	E	L	Y	H	A	R	D	I	N	E	S	S	N	O	Z	D	Z

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

ANNUAL
CLAY
CLIMATE
CLIMBING
COMPOST
CONTAINER
DAPPLED
DECIDUOUS
DROUGHT
FERTILIZER
FILLER
HARDINESS
HOSE
HOUSEPLANT
IRRIGATE
MOUNDED
MULCH
PERENNIAL
ROOTS
SHADE
SOIL
SUN
TOLERANCE
TRAILING

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Plus HST & Licensing

$275/WK

2022 RAM 3500 BIG HORN STOCK #21237B

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Plus HST & Licensing

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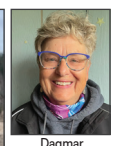

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- Walk out basement possibility

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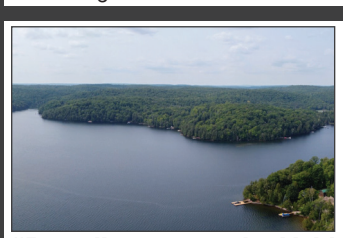

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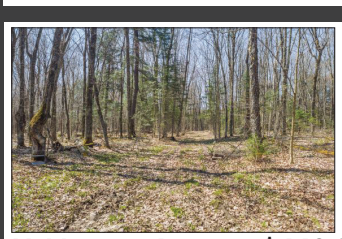

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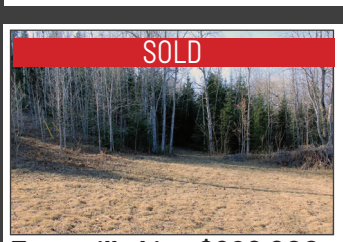

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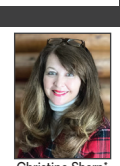

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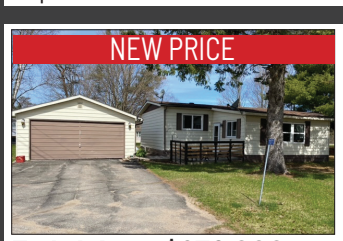

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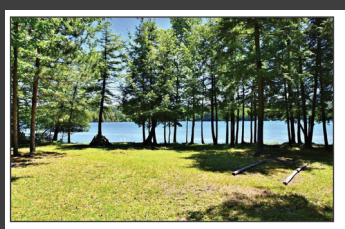

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Reporting to the Deputy CAO/Treasurer, the Tax Collector will be responsible for the collection of taxes for the Municipality. The Tax Collector will oversee the day-to-day tax collection functions and performs the statutory duties of the Tax Collector as defined in the Municipal Act.

The municipality is seeking an individual with a minimum of five (5) years' experience within a Municipal setting, at least two of which are in tax collection; minimum of two (2) years' recent Municipal Financial or related experience; Municipal Tax Administration Program; post-secondary education, with discipline in finance or accounting, or related combination of education and experience; completion of Municipal Finance and Accounting course; general knowledge of Municipal accounting software, principles and practices and A.M.T.C.O. designation preferred.

If you are interested in joining our dedicated team of municipal professionals, applications **clearly marked "Application – Tax Collector"** may be submitted on or before 4:00 p.m., Monday, May 30, 2022 via mail, in person, fax or email. Interested applicants may submit their resume, including references, in confidence to:

Shannon Hunter, CAO/Treasurer
Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0
Fax: 705-448-2532 E-Mail: shunter@highlandseast.ca

A copy of the detailed job description is available upon request.

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Municipality of Highlands East is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants requiring accommodation are asked to contact the CAO/Treasurer.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for candidate selection purposes only. Questions about this collection should be directed to Shannon Hunter, C.A.O.

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INSIDE THE ECHO

This week's circulation: 5,050 copies

IT'S TIME
for the province to let the hospital expansion begin.
EDITORIAL
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The Chamber of Commerce must find the Highland niche.
THIS WEEK
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A CARING PLACE
The Minden Hospital has all the qualities of home.
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Mabel Brannigan leads the legion into the future.
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CNA BLUE RIBBON AWARD 1987

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO
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CNA BLUE RIBBON AWARD 1988

Vol. 107 No. 27 Wednesday, May 10, 1989 'The voice of the Highlands' 38 pages 50 cents

Hospital costs triple; county comes through

by LEN PIZZEY
Editor

The continuing care addition to Haliburton Hospital that was to have cost $1.3 million little more than two years ago, will now cost an estimated $4.22 million, but Haliburton County's politicians are determined it won't be they who scuttle the project. At a special closed meeting Monday night, council guaranteed it would come up with the additional $642,000 local share of the cost, but only on condition that the building go to tender immediately.

The decision came just three days after Ontario's health ministry gave the board of St. Joseph's General Hospital, which owns the Haliburton Hospital, just two weeks to confirm that local people could fund one third of the current estimated price. Council's management committee held an emergency meeting Sunday afternoon to draft a cost sharing plan, and won unanimous approval for it on Monday night.

Under the plan, Dysart council would contribute $142,000, county council would hand over an additional $300,000, and the public would be asked to raise another $200,000, which council would in the meantime guarantee. These funds are in addition to the $493,000 already raised through public donations to the hospital expansion project, and the $266,400 that county council set aside in its original commitment.

In 1987, with architectural plans for the expansion completed, it was estimated that the 18 bed facility would cost $1.3 million. Despite the fact that the local share of the cost was already assured, the province delayed approval and called for design changes that added to architectural and construction costs. By last spring the estimated cost had risen to $3.2 million, and concern was growing that with construction inflation estimated at a compounding one percent a month, the project was in jeopardy. In July, the health ministry said the building would have to have air conditioning, (it had not been included on the recommendation of the building committee as a cost saving measure) and sent the plans back to the architects. Although the air conditioning added only $57,000 to the price of the building, the most recent estimate, on which the health ministry's request for a guarantee of local cost sharing is based, is now $4,224,744.

The commitment is the largest ever made by Haliburton County to a single project. Local politicians hope the government responds swiftly.

Dysart reeve Murray Fearrey told his council on Monday that Dysart must take the lead role in guaranteeing the additional funding based on the present estimated cost. As well as the $142,000 in direct additional support, Dysart would contribute 37 percent of the County's $300,000 share.

Fearrey said local politicians and the community have no choice but to support the project, despite the inflated price.

"If you don't get the hospital this

Please turn to page 2

Dysart buys new industrial land

by LEN PIZZEY
Editor

Dysart council has purchased 150 acres of rural land on the west side of Highway 118 west of Jim Beef Lake and intends to rezone it for industrial purposes.

The land, purchased from Harold Bannon for $50,000, can be serviced through a road allowance, presently unopened, that extends north from the Haliburton landfill site, meeting Hwy. 118 just west of the Eagle Lake road junction.

In rezoning the land, council will ensure that it cannot be used for any retail purpose. The move is intended to preclude the possibility of secondary retail and commercial development along the road, which could otherwise function as a bypass around Haliburton.

Council also is negotiating to purchase a parcel of land adjacent to the existing industrial park property from the Jack Robertson estate. Council expects the purchase to be completed this year, with development of new industrial sites by 1990. Council has indicated it will impose tighter site plan controls on the new parcel than it did on the first phase of the industrial park, which is now sold out.

Sign makes beach clear

by SUSAN GROBER
Staff Reporter

Those who use the public beach where Deep Bay Road meets Gull Lake will be pleased to learn there is now a sign designating its access after their years of complaining to council.

"For the past 10 or 12 years there have been problems with a certain individual who tries to kick people

Please turn to page 11

Dump proposal needs MOE okay

by SUSAN GROBER
Staff Reporter

A representative from the Ministry of the Environment will meet with members of Lutterworth council to see if land around the Steeles landfill site can be sold for residential purposes.

Joe Sammut of Toronto has owned land around the dump for 38 years, long before the MOE declared that a residential building cannot be built within 400 metres of a landfill site. Now he wants to some of sell his land to a neighbour.

"He's only got half an acre, and he only wants a little more land," Sammut said at last Tuesday's council meeting. "His house is already

Cardiff Public School students didn't mind Jump Rope for Heart as a diversion on a sunny day and fundraiser for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. They raised $1,500 for their efforts. Story, pictures page 25

Pressure can stop spraying

by MARTHA PERKINS
Staff Reporter

Now that the provincial government has joined the camp of the environmentalists, it is far more sensitive to complaints about the spraying practices of its provincially-owned utility company, a chemist told a small group of people on Saturday night.

"We've got the power back," Michael Collins said at a meeting about biocides sponsored by CHANGE (County for Haliburton Advocates of a Naturally Good Environment.) "We can stop these people (at Ontario Hydro from spraying biocides along roadways and under power lines) and they'll respond.

"Hydro and the provincial government have a great fear that someone would start a class action and take them to court."

At issue is one of the substances used by Hydro to kill all plants beneath its power lines: 2-4D. While it is effective in getting rid of weeds and brush, it is also highly toxic to animals and humans. Which is why Collins prefers to call it a biocide instead of a pesticide.

"Years ago, cytologists—people who study cells—used to think of plant and animal cells as distinct entities," he said. But in the past several years, they've found "You're not looking at much different in the two. Those things which cause genetic mutations in plant cells, cause genetic mutations in animal cells. Almost anything that affects any type of living cell, probably does the same thing to any cell."

Therefore, anything which can kill a plant, can't be very good for humans.

"Hydro at first resented and attempted to prevent a discussion of the problem," says Collins. Until there was recent proof that 2-4D is poisonous and causes cancer in humans, Hydro insisted it was a harmless product—unless you were a plant growing next to a power line.

But Collins says Hydro continued to use 2-4D because it had a long-term contract with a chemical company [illegible] breaking that contract, Hydro continued using it but said any request not to spray on private land would be respected. With only a year left in the contract, Collins says, Hydro announced it would cut down use of the spray by 30 per cent last year, 50 per cent this year, and 100 per cent next year.

"They admit 2-4D is toxic and say 'Give us a little time,'" Collins says. "I'm saying do it now."

When asked what could be done to prevent spraying on crown land, Collins says Hydro has a rule that land within 500 feet of a waterway can't be sprayed. Given Haliburton County's topography, this is virtually impossible and 2-4D is bound to get into a water table.

"If you ever see or hear of them spraying near a waterway, get the data, send the data to Pollution Probe (which is anxious to get enough data to get them into court) and sign it," Collins says.

Another suggestion was for property owners to send in a form let-

Dysart is hit with a 14 per cent tax hike

by LEN PIZZEY
Editor

Dysart et al property owners will be hit with a 14.3 percent increase in their tax bills this year to fund municipal, county and school board expenditures.

The figure was released Monday as council adopted its 1989 budget estimates.

Overall spending by the municipality is expected to be $2,982,500 this year, up from 1988 budgeted spending of $2,767,725. The increase will result in a 14.2 percent rise in the municipal portion of the total tax bill. The county levy is up 3.5 percent, while the elementary school requirement is up 15.2 percent and the secondary school portion is up 18.4 percent, for an overall increase of 14.2 percent.

The total tax increase is expected to be $77.65 for an average household with an assessment of $800.

While Monday's budget shows no major increases in municipal spending, falling provincial subsidies mean local property and business taxes must make up the shortfall.

Last year, provincial subsidies met 50.16 percent of the cost of operating the municipality. This year the subsidies will account for only 47.2 percent of the budget. Property and business taxpayers funded 44.5 percent of the budget last year, while in 1989, the local share of costs will rise to 48.5 percent.

The decline in provincial grant support as a percentage of expenditures will have a serious impact on council's expenditures for roads. This year, for the first time, the local share of road spending will exceed the rate of subsidy, and the difference, estimated at $35,000, will be funded entirely by local taxpayers.

In the past few years the province's share of local road expenditures has fallen from the 75 per cent range to just 50 percent. The funds are barely adequate to carry out routine maintenance, and as the

Please turn to page 2

Pollution concerns may unite lake residents

by LEN PIZZEY
Editor

A Lake Kashagawigamog property owner concerned about pollution has called a public meeting for May 20 to organize an association of lake residents.

John Puffer says the lake's water quality has deteriorated in the past 10 years, and he is worried about the impact of a proposed expansion of the Haliburton sewage treatment plant into a real swamp" says Puffer, whose family owns property in the Ingoldsby area.

In a Letter to the Editor of *The Echo* last year, Puffer urged people to write to the Ministry of the Environment expressing concern about the decline in Kashagawigmog water quality and the potential threat from a greater volume of treated effluent being pumped into the lake. Many people telephoned him after the letter appeared to share their concern, he says.

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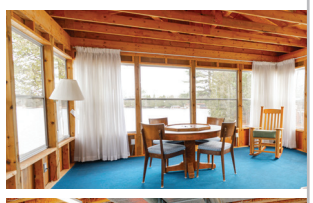
WATER ACCESS ONLY (WAO) | .590 ACRES | SOUTH VIEWS

GRAND DESIGN ON GOODERHAM LAKE $1,850,000



Get ready to lose yourself in this gorgeous lakefront home with an incredible 43'x 20' workshop. Architecturally designed, and expanded over the years, this house feels as much like an executive home as it does a family ranch. With a beautiful lake just steps from your door and Gooderham town just a short walk away, you're close to the best of both worlds.

4 X BED | 4 X BATH | 4,000+ SQ.FT

SOUTH LAKE $1,295,000

KOSHLONG LAKE $1,199,900

FRACTIONAL $73,500

LOOP ROAD $359,000

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